

Transcript of Chris Byars Interview

(John Rhatigan) Introduction: With us today we have Chris Byars from the Chris Byars Jazz Quartet. Mr. Byars thank you for being with us.

(John Rhatigan) Question: Can you tell us a little about your group?

(Chris Byars) Answer: Sure, our group is called the Chris Byars Quartet and we are from New York City. We have been playing together for 22 years. I met our bassist and our trombone player 22 years ago. The drummer I only met 17 years ago but still, it's a long time. We have all been a part of many different groups together so this exact group of 4 people is actually a new group. It's about 6 months old, but much like if you were playing basketball with your brother your whole life and then you wind up on a team together they say, How long have you been playing together ? You say I have been playing with him my whole life.

(John Rhatigan) Question: Can you tell us a little about what kind of music you play?

(Chris Byars) Answer: Sure. We play Jazz from New York City and you can call it classic Jazz because we take the style of the musicians from the 1940's and 1950's. But it's not entirely classic because we make our own new compositions. So I don't know if it's new or old or if it's something that's a combination of both.

(John Rhatigan) Question: What would you like your audience to take from your performances?

(Chris Byars) Answer: Well I would like them to take a lot. First of all, we are going to have an experience together that you can only get when you have people in a room together. That's something that is important to me. Another thing is to learn how to listen to Jazz. I want them to know what to listen for and I want them to have an idea of what's going on. Also, I want to take something too. I want to learn music of this great country and I want to show them what jazz is like by playing this music that they know in a jazz environment.

(John Rhatigan) Question: Great. Now, today and tomorrow you will be playing mainly for students. What message would you like to pass on to the youth of Cyprus?

(Chris Byars) Answer: I think it's important to say to know is to love. And the more we know about each other, the more that the youth of Cyprus knows about America through its art and through its music and the more we know about them from sharing this experience, the better we can be appreciating each other and working together for a future that we will share.

(John Rhatigan): Well that's great. Thank you for being with us today.

(Chris Byars): Thank you. It's my pleasure